

CLAIMS

1. A wheelchair having a wheelchair frame including a seat supported on said frame and a
5 backrest pivotable on said frame between an upright position and a reclined position, a pair
of rear wheels journaled to said frame for rotation about a rear wheel axis, and one or more
anti-tip legs attached to said frame and movable between a retracted position and a ground
contacting extended position responsive to pivoting movement of said backrest.
- 10 2. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein said one or more anti-tip legs comprise two legs.
3. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein said legs are arranged for contacting a ground
15 surface behind said rear wheel axis.
4. The wheelchair of Claim 1 said legs are mounted for generally vertical sliding movement
on said frame and said backrest has linkage arms connected for urging said legs downwardly
20 into said ground contacting position responsive to rearward pivoting of said backrest.
5. The wheelchair of Claim 4 wherein said legs are vertically slidable through leg holders
fastened to said wheelchair frame.
- 25 6. The wheelchair of Claim 5 wherein said leg holders are removable fastened to said
wheelchair frame.
- 30 7. The wheelchair of Claim 6 wherein said wheelchair frame has a pair of bottom tubes
terminating in rear ends behind said rear wheel axis and said leg holders are fastened to said
rear ends.

8. The wheelchair of Claim 7 wherein said leg holders comprise holder sleeves fitted to said rear ends and sleeve fasteners for securing said holder sleeves to said rear ends.

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9. The wheelchair of Claim 1 further comprising a mounting plate fastened to each side of said wheelchair frame, a linkage arm pivoted to each said mounting plate, wherein said backrest is supported on each said linkage arm for pivotal movement therewith relative to said wheelchair frame, and each linkage arm is connected for moving said legs between said retracted position and said extended position responsive to pivoting movement of said backrest.

10. The wheelchair of Claim 9 further comprising left and right detent arms connected to said backrest and having forward ends located forward of said backrest such that a person seated in said wheelchair can hold said forward ends for pivoting said backrest between said upright position and said reclined position.

11. The wheelchair of Claim 10 further comprising a handgrip on each of said forward ends.

12. The wheelchair of Claim 11 further comprising a spring connected for urging said detent arms to a forwardmost position corresponding to said upright position of said backrest.

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13. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein said legs are spring loaded towards said retracted position.

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14. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein said legs and said backrest are spring loaded towards a retracted and upright position respectively.

15. The wheelchair of Claim 1 further comprising spring means urging said legs towards
said retracted position and wherein said backrest has a pair of linkage arms connected to
5 said anti-tip legs for depressing said anti tip legs against said urging into said ground
contacting position responsive to reclining movement of said backrest.

16. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein said wheelchair frame has a pair of armrests and a
10 detent plate under each of said armrests, said detent plate having a slot including a plurality
of detent notches open to said slot, said backrest having a detent arm attached to said
backrest at one end and captive at another end for displacement along said slot, said other
end being engageable in any one of said detent notches for detaining said backrest at one or
more positions intermediate to said upright position and said reclined position.

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17. The wheelchair of Claim 16 further comprising a spring connected between said detent
arm and said detent plate for spring biasing said backrest towards said upright position.

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18. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein said reclining backrest is removably attached to said
wheelchair frame such that said reclining backrest is interchangeable with a non-reclining
backrest.

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19. A wheelchair having a wheelchair frame including a seat supported on said frame and a
backrest pivotable on said frame between an upright position and a reclined position, a pair
of rear wheels journaled to said frame for rotation about a rear wheel axis, a pair of anti-tip
legs attached to said frame and movable between a retracted position and an extended
30 position for contacting a ground surface behind said rear wheel axis responsive to pivoting
movement of said backrest.

20. The wheelchair of Claim 19 further comprising left and right detent arms connected to said backrest and having forward ends located within reach of a person seated in said wheelchair for pivoting said backrest between said upright position and said reclined position.

21. The wheelchair of Claim 20 further comprising a handgrip on each of said forward ends.

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22. The wheelchair of Claim 19 wherein said wheelchair frame has a pair of armrests and a detent plate along each of said armrests, each said detent plate having a slot including a plurality of detent notches open to said slot, said backrest having a pair of detent arms attached to said backrest and captive at a forward end thereof for displacement along said slot, said forward end being engageable in any one of said detent notches for detaining said backrest at one or more positions intermediate to said upright position and said reclined position.

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23. The wheelchair of Claim 19 further comprising a pair of linkage arms pivoted to said wheelchair frame, said backrest being supported between said linkage arms for pivotal movement therewith relative to said wheelchair frame, and wherein said linkage arms are connected for moving said legs between said retracted position and said extended position responsive to pivoting movement of said backrest.

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24. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein said backrest and said legs are spring loaded towards said upright position and said retracted position respectively.

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25. A wheelchair having a wheelchair frame including a seat supported on said frame and a backrest pivotable on said frame between an upright position and a reclined position, a pair of rear wheels journaled to said frame for rotation about a rear wheel axis, a pair of anti-tip legs attached to said frame and movable between a retracted position and an extended position for contacting a ground surface behind said rear wheel axis responsive to pivoting movement of said backrest;

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a pair of armrests on said wheelchair frame and a detent plate along each of said

armrests, each said detent plate having a slot including a plurality of detent notches open to said slot, said backrest having a pair of detent arms attached to said backrest and captive at a forward end thereof for displacement along said slot, said forward end being engageable in any one of said detent notches for detaining said backrest at one or more positions

5 intermediate to said upright position and said reclined position; and
a handgrip on each said forward end.

26. The wheelchair of Claim 25 further comprising a pair of linkage arms pivoted to said
10 wheelchair frame, said backrest being supported on said linkage arms for pivotal movement therewith relative to said wheelchair frame, and wherein said linkage arms are connected for moving said legs between said retracted position and said extended position responsive to pivoting movement of said backrest.

15 27. The wheelchair of Claim 25 wherein said backrest, said legs and said detent arms are spring biased towards said upright position, said retracted position and a forwardmost position, respectively.